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DURHAM COUNTY NEWS

‘Connecting history’: Durham plans to convert defunct railway into trail to Roxboro

by: [Ben Bokun](#)
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DURHAM, N.C. (WNCN) — An old rail line in Durham that hasn’t been used in over 40 years could become a multi-use trail for pedestrians and cyclists.

The plan creates a long path all the way from the Bull City to Roxboro. The existing train tracks in Durham are covered with weeds and garbage.

“We’re really looking forward to the expansion of the trail system here in the Triangle,” Naylor, also working at Bullseye Bicycle, said. “I think it’s going to be a great benefit to everyone really, not just pedestrians and cyclists, but everybody straight across the board.”

The [Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail Plan](#) would transform 18 miles of inactive rail lines within Durham County. The trail would ultimately establish a 26-mile trail from downtown Durham to Roxboro.

“This thing has come together pretty quickly on an abandoned rail line, so it’s super exciting for recreation for our residents, but also connecting history in Durham,” Durham City Council Member Carl Rist said.

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Trains first started running on the line in the 1890s. But now, it hasn’t been used since 1983.

“We’re concerned about safety and bikers and pedestrians, and so this path would [be] really safe,” Rist said. “Our bike and sidewalk network is still incomplete. In many places, it’s not adequate and can be unsafe.”

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The final plan is expected to be completed in October with detailed recommendations and cost estimates.

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